wherein said database is stored on a server connected to said at least one user terminal, said

server being in at least one-way communication with said at least one user terminal and said

system being such that said user terminal communicates to said server the selection

information and associated information read from said data storage medium.

8. (Amended) An ordering and collection facilitation system according to

claim 6, wherein said at least one user terminal is in two-way communication

with said server and said server further includes means for communicating to said at

least one user terminal an identification of each of a plurality of items available so

that said user terminal can display on the viewer the menu of available items.

10. (Amended) An ordering and collection facilitation system according to claim 1,

further comprising means for communicating with a supplier terminal an order for new

supplies, said order being based on the items selected by users in a predetermined period of

time.

11. (Amended) An ordering and collection facilitation system according to claim 10,

wherein said order is communicated by said server.

12. (Amended) An ordering and collection facilitation system according to claim 1,

wherein said system is connected to the internet to provide downloadable web pages thereto,

and is operable to update said database in accordance with items selected by users browsing

the web pages, said system being further arranged to accumulate the information it receives

via the internet with the information it receives from said at least one user terminal.

13. (Amended) An ordering and collection facilitation system comprising a plurality of ordering and collection facilitation systems according to claim 1, each at a different site, all connected to a master server for accumulating information relating to the quantities of said items ordered at said different sites.

14. (Amended) An ordering and collection facilitation system according to claim 1, wherein said selection information comprises the identity and number of the item(s) selected at the user terminal.

15. (Amended) An ordering and collection facilitation system according to CLAIM 1, wherein each of said plurality of portable data storage media contains a unique identifier.

16. (Amended) An ordering and collection facilitation system according to claim 1, wherein each of said portable data storage media contains data relating to an amount of money, said amount being reduced when a user confirms a selection of at least one item at said at least one user terminal.

17. (Amended) An ordering and collection facilitation system according to claim 1, wherein said portable data storage medium is a smart card.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 19, further comprising:

transmitting data corresponding to an available menu from said server or operator

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terminal to said user terminal.

22. (Amended) A method according to claim 19, further comprising:

transmitting data indicating that the selected item has been collected

from said operator terminal to said server.

23. (Amended) A method according to claim 18, further comprising:

transmitting data to a supplier terminal, said information being data

indicating required supplies of said items, the requirement being based at least in part

on the quantity of items selected by the users in a predetermined period of time.

24. (Amended) A method according to claim 18, further comprising:

hosting an internet web page displaying said items and receiving data

via the internet relating to a choice of items for a particular user.

25. (Amended) A method according to claim 18, further comprising:

updating the data on said portable data storage medium so as to have

the effect of extracting payment for the selected item from said user.

26. (Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein the step of

displaying a required quantity of said at least one selected item is carried out at a

selected time after a plurality of users have selected at least one item.